MAN (VMAN). Referring now to **Figure 1**, wherein a block diagram overview of a MAN configuration and aggregated VLANs **120** in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention is shown. As illustrated, a MAN **100** includes a VMAN layer-2 switch **102** and/or a layer-3 router **104**. Multiple customers **110**, each having separate sub-VLANs, sub-VLAN 2 **122**, sub-VLAN 3 **124**, and sub-VLAN 4 **126**, are aggregated into super-VLAN 1 **130** by a layer-2 edge switch **128** located at the edge of the MAN **100**. As shown, the sub-VLANs **122, 124,** and **126** are the customer-facing VLANs, whereas the super-VLAN **130** is the MAN-facing VLAN. The edge switch **128** forwards data packets originating from the customer sub-VLANs **122, 124,** and **126** through the super-VLAN 1 **130** and over the MAN **100** using the VMAN layer-2 switch **102** or the layer-3 router **104**.

On page 8, please replace the paragraph starting on line 11 and ending on line 24 with:

In one embodiment, data packets originating from the sub-VLANs may be tagged with a VLAN ID using an 802.1Q tag or other type of tagging scheme. In another embodiment, the data packets are not tagged. Either way, the edge switch **128** aggregates the sub-VLANs **122, 124,** and **126** into the super-VLAN **130** by classifying the tagged or untagged packets according to the aggregated VLAN **120** configuration. The aggregated VLAN **120** configuration is typically pre-defined on the edge switch **128** by the MAN service provider, and is transparent to the individual customers whose VLANs are being aggregated. If the customer uses frame tagging, then the edge switch **128** simply verifies whether the VLAN ID specified in the data packet's 802.1Q tag is one of the configured VLAN IDs. If it is not one of the configured VLAN IDs according to the aggregated VLAN **120** configuration, then the data packet is rejected. If the data packet is untagged, then the edge switch will assign a VLAN ID to the data packet, again according to the aggregated VLAN **120** configuration.

On page 8, please replace the paragraph starting on line 25 and ending on page 9, line 7 with:

Similarly, data packets originating from the super-VLAN **130** may be tagged with a VLAN ID using an 802.1Q tag or other type of tagging scheme. In another embodiment, the data packets are not tagged. Either way, the edge switch **128** classifies the tagged or untagged packets according to the aggregated VLAN **120** configuration. If the data packet is tagged, then the edge switch **128** simply verifies whether the VLAN ID specified in the data packet's 802.1Q tag is the configured super-VLAN's VLAN ID. If not, then the data packet is rejected. If the data packet is untagged, then the edge switch will assign a super-VLAN VLAN ID to the data packet according to the aggregated VLAN **120** configuration.

On page 9, please replace the paragraph starting on line 8 and ending on line 11 with:

In one embodiment, the aggregated VLAN **120** configuration is composed of one sub-VLAN/VLAN ID for each customer and a single super-VLAN/VLAN ID. However, other aggregated VLAN **120** configurations may be employed without departing from the principles of the invention.

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Amended) An aggregated virtual local area network (VLAN) architecture system comprising:

a metropolitan area network (MAN) having at least one of a router and a switch; and

an edge switch connecting the MAN to a super-VLAN, the super-VLAN comprising at least one of a plurality of sub-VLANs, and wherein the edge switch applies a modified bridge forwarding rule to exchange a VLAN ID associated with the sub-VLAN for a VLAN ID